

## King brown snake

*Pseudechis australis*

**Other names:** mulga snake

### Description

The king brown snake is as its name describes a large snake growing up to 2.5m in length. Their colour is variable from a pale brown to olive and rich reddish brown or copper. They have a cream to white underbelly. The head of the king brown is broad and depressed with small eyes and reddish irises. King brown snakes are dangerously venomous and flatten their necks when threatened. They have comparatively large fangs and venom glands and can therefore inject victims with a large amount of venom.

### Distribution

King brown snakes are widespread throughout Australia inhabiting all areas except coastal south eastern and southern regions. In sub-humid to arid areas they inhabit tropical woodlands, monsoon forests and deserts. They shelter under timber, in rocky crevices and inside hollow logs and burrows. Depending on the climate in which they live, king browns can be nocturnal or active during the day.

### Regional Abundance

Darwin - Common in rural area, Katherine - Rare, Alice Springs - Common.

### Diet and Reproduction

Their diets are broad and consist of mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs and fish. They are even known to eat other snakes. King brown snakes are egg-layers and a clutch generally consists of 15-20 eggs.

**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**



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